


NVCASE Sub-programs

Organic Production and Processing

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Background: Establishing Organic Production and Processing Sub-Program

On December 6, 2002 NIST received a request from an accreditation body (IOAS) to establish a sub program under NIST's National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) program for Organic Production and Processing. The purpose of their request was to provide confidence in their quality of work and provide assurance that the accreditation body complies with the international criteria as outlined in ISO/IEC 17011 and specific technical requirements.

Thus NIST decided to proceed with establishing a NVCASE sub-program for Organic Production and Processing. In accordance with NVCASE regulations, NIST published a notice in the [Federal Register](#) to invite all interested parties to a workshop held on May 9, 2003. The purpose of this workshop was to consult the public and develop criteria for the sub program. The workshop was attended by USDA, ANSI, IOAS, Organic Trade Association, and other Organic Agriculture experts. No body objected to establishing the sub program while the draft criteria were accepted.

On November 4, 2003 NIST published another notice in the Federal Register to announce the establishment of the sub program for Organic Production and Process and invited applications from all interested accreditation bodies.

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Standards Coordination and Conformity Group
Attention: NVCASE Program Manager
100 Bureau Drive, MS 2150
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2150
Tel: (301) 975-5521
FAX: 301/975-4715
E-mail: ramona.saar@nist.gov